



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 9, 2003

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

Subject: Adoption of Resolution Honoring Sharon L. Gire

Attached is a resolution in honor of Sharon L. Gire, former member of the State Board of Education, for her dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Michigan.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 9, 2003, honoring Sharon L. Gire.

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**State of Michigan
State Board of Education
RESOLUTION**

Sharon L. Gire

WHEREAS, Sharon L. Gire is a graduate of Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a graduate of Wayne State University with a Masters Degree in Social Work, Organization, and Administration; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating her commitment to the communities and people residing in Macomb County, Sharon L. Gire first worked as a program director and consultant for local and national YWCA organizations, then as an area supervisor for the county's Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and also as the Director of the Northeast Interfaith Center for Racial Justice – an organization committed to improving race relations and fostering racial justice; and

WHEREAS, Sharon L. Gire also has established a long record of dedication to her community through public service, including serving as a member of the Mount Clemens City Commission from 1977 to 1984, and a member of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners from 1984 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, from 1987 to 1998, Sharon L. Gire was elected as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, representing the citizens of Macomb County and eventually serving as Associate Speaker Pro Tempore, and as chairperson of the House Education Policy Committee, and the House Committee on Human Services and Children; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure with the state Legislature, Sharon L. Gire initiated major reforms and provided leadership through establishing the Michigan High School Proficiency Test, and the Patient's Bill of Rights, and raised continued awareness of the issues surrounding domestic violence, child support enforcement, prescription drug diversion, and assaultive student behavior in public schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Sharon L. Gire was elected to the State Board of Education for a term beginning January 1, 1999 serving as the Board's Delegate to the National Association of State Boards of Education in 1999-2000, as Vice President of the Board in 2001 until her resignation to accept an appointment by Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as Director of the Office of Services to the Aging; she also served as Co-Chair of the Board's Integrating Communities and Schools Task Force; and

WHEREAS, during her five years of service on the Board Sharon L. Gire was a compassionate and caring voice for teachers, educational administrators, students, and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education extends to Sharon L. Gire its highest regard and heartfelt gratitude for the dedication and expertise she has brought to the children of Michigan, their parents, and the millions of Michigan citizens her work has affected and impacted; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education express its fervent wish that Sharon L. Gire enjoys many rewarding experiences after stepping down from the State Board of Education with her husband, Dana.